



Propane Watch

August 11, 1999

Energy Information Administration
Office of Oil & Gas

- U.S. inventories of propane broke out of the summer doldrums during July to post the highest monthly stock build of the year, up a robust 6.3 million barrels (MMB). The July stock build pushed up U.S. inventories to a estimated 56.8 MMB as of July 31, 1999, a level well within the normal range for this time of year. Although U.S. inventories trail more than 10 MMB below the prior year level, U.S. inventories remain at their second highest level for July since 1988. Regional inventories continued higher in all major areas of the Nation last month. Gulf Coast inventories reported the largest gain, up nearly 2.5 MMB, while inventories in the East Coast and Midwest regions reported gains of 1.4 MMB and 2.2 MMB, respectively. While East Coast inventories rose slightly above its normal range during July, Midwest and Gulf Coast inventories remain well within their respective normal ranges during this same period.
- With only two months remaining during the traditional April-through-September stock build season, U.S. inventories are poised to surpass the 60 MMB level many industry observers believe is adequate for the start of the heating season.
- The next *Propane Watch*, which will include inventory data as of August 31, 1999, will be released at 5:00 p.m. on September 9, 1999.**

Propane Stocks by Petroleum Administration for Defense Districts (PADD) I, II, and III (Thousand Barrels)

| Districts | June 1998 | July 1998 | Month Ending | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | | | 03/31/99 | 04/30/99 | 05/31/99 | 06/30/99 | 07/31/99 |
| East Coast (PADD I) | 4,330 | 4,671 | 1,875 | 2,883 | ^R 3,330 | ^E 3,651 | ^E 5,090 |
| Midwest (PADD II) | 25,426 | 28,578 | 14,038 | 16,437 | ^R 20,282 | ^E 23,412 | ^E 25,563 |
| Gulf Coast (PADD III) | 28,527 | 31,100 | 18,763 | 19,713 | ^R 21,262 | ^E 21,663 | ^E 24,142 |
| Total (PADD I-III) | 58,283 | 64,349 | 34,676 | 39,033 | ^R 44,874 | ^E 48,726 | ^E 54,795 |
| U.S. Total | 60,634 | 67,313 | 35,859 | 40,157 | ^R 46,264 | ^E 50,529 | ^E 56,822 |

E=Estimated data.

R=Revised.

Source: Energy Information Administration (EIA), Monthly Petroleum Supply Reporting System and Form EIA-807, "Propane Telephone Survey."

For information about propane stocks, please contact the National Energy Information Center: (202) 586-8800. E-mail: infoctr@eia.doe.gov.